

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action dated February 21, 2007.

Claim 1 is amended and claims 5-13 and 17-23 are cancelled. Claims 1-4 and 14-16 remain pending.

§112 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Applicant has cancelled claim 13 without prejudice or disclaimer.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-4 and 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Blair et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,462,505). Claims 17-21 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of allowable claim 5. Claims 2-4 depend from claim 1. Reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 6-12, 22 and 23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blair et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,462,505).

Claims 6-12, 22, and 23 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 14-16 were allowed.

Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of claim 5 has been added to parent claim 1.

RESERVATION OF RIGHTS

In the interest of clarity and brevity, Applicant may not have addressed every assertion made in the Office Action. Applicant's silence regarding any such assertion does not constitute any admission or acquiescence. Applicant reserves all rights not exercised in connection with this response, such as the right to challenge or rebut any tacit or explicit characterization of any reference or of any of the present claims, the right to challenge or rebut any asserted factual or legal basis of any of the rejections, the right to swear behind any cited reference such as provided under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, or the right to assert co-ownership of any cited reference. Applicant does not admit that any of the cited references or any other references of record are relevant to the present claims, or that they constitute prior art. To the extent that any rejection or assertion is based upon the Examiner's personal knowledge, rather than any objective evidence of record as manifested by a cited prior art reference, Applicant timely objects to such reliance on Official Notice, and reserves all rights to request that the Examiner provide a reference or affidavit in support of such assertion, as required by MPEP § 2144.03. Applicant reserves all rights to pursue any cancelled claims in a subsequent patent application claiming the benefit of priority of the present patent application, and to request rejoinder of any withdrawn claim, as required by MPEP § 821.04.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 359-3267 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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6/21/07

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this 21 day of June 2007.

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